

THE SIGNAL

A Community Newsletter for
KINNERSLEY-SARNESFIELD-LETTON-NORTON CANON-BROBURY
STAUNTON-ON-WYE-MONNINGTON-ON-WYE-MOORHAMPTON

NO. 41

OCTOBER 1985

PRICE 12p

The Register of Electors

BY the time you read this someone in your house should have completed and returned the Register of Electors form. It is worthwhile checking to ensure that this has been done, for there are cases at every election where people find themselves unable to vote because the return has not been sent in.

Each year the Electoral Registration Office asks occupiers of all known dwellings to complete a return of persons who will be resident on 10th October. If you have only recently moved into your house you may not have received a return, in which case you should contact the Electoral Registration Office at Shire Hall, Hereford.

The return is used to compile the list of electors from 16th February next until 15th February, 1987. If there was to be an election on 1st February 1986 the present list would be used, and the list now being compiled would be used for any election occurring between 16th February 1986 and 15th February, 1987.

You can check at your local post office in December to find out if you are included in the new list. If you are not you can still be included by contacting the Electoral Registration Office, not later than the 16th December.

Many people do not realise that they can obtain a postal vote and leave it till too late to apply, thus losing their right to vote. Disabled or infirm people who have difficulty in getting to a polling station qualify for a postal vote, but they must have the signature of a doctor or nurse on their application.

Students away at university or college also qualify for a postal vote if they are registered at their family address. They are

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL'
SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE, (PHONE MOCCAS 517)
NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 1985

often included in the register at their university town and can apparently vote in local elections in that town as well as their family residence, but nobody can vote in a general of E.E.C. election more than once. Persons with registrations in two areas can, on these occasions, opt for which constituency they cast their vote.

If you move house you may find that for a particular election you are still registered and able to use your vote at your old address. It is best to check on this well before election day. If you move out of one parliamentary constituency to another - say from Hereford to Sarnesfield - you qualify for a postal vote. You do not need your polling station card to vote - just give your name and the address under which you are registered. If you are registered for a postal vote your voting papers are sent to you a week before election day.

Having had some experience of being involved in elections it always causes me considerable amusement to see the way in which some electors spoil their voting papers - often quite unintentionally. The cross by which you record your vote should be entered in the box next to the candidate's name, but quite often crosses appear over the name, causing much argument as to whether the voter is indicating a preference or trying to obliterate the name. Marks with the centre of the cross very close to the division between the boxes also cause problems.

Marks other than a cross are not allowed, such as 'yes,' but a tick is normally accepted. If you suffer from poor eyesight get the polling officer to help.

The way you cast your ballot is secret, but it is possible for the authorities to identify the person to whom a ballot paper has been issued by checking the number on the ballot paper against the counterfoil which records your polling number but this can only be done if there is an electoral court inquiry.

Changes have recently been made to the electoral law to enable people who are away on holiday on polling day to have a postal vote, but the government has so far not agreed the date on which this will become effective.

Rod Kilvert

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The club's next outing, at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 1st October will be to Telford and Ironbridge. All those interested in attending please contact Mrs. B. Kinsey or Mrs. P. McCann.

KEEP FIT WITH CAROL

at

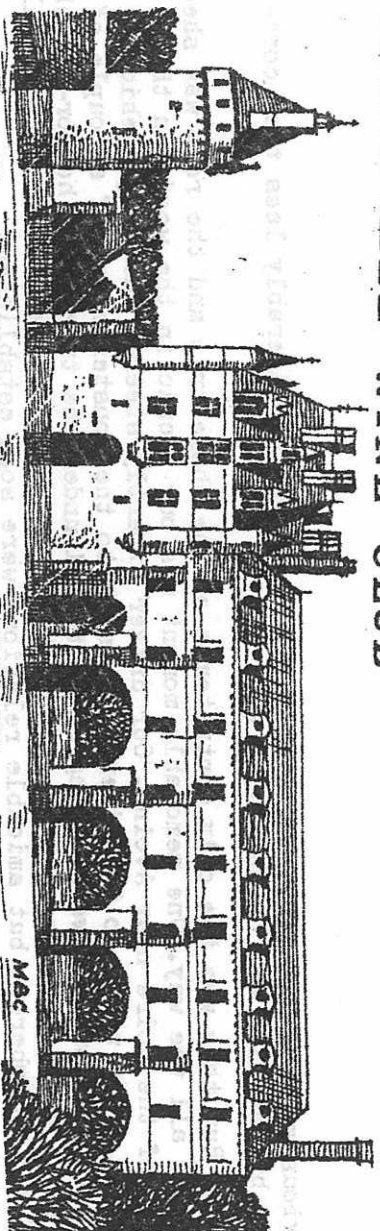
NORTON CANON VILLAGE HALL.

TUESDAY, 1st OCTOBER for 10 weeks

OBITUARY

Arrow Vale Wine Club announce with deep sorrow the death of George Ridout of Bradnor Green, Kingston, their president who founded the club some twenty years ago.

ARROWVALE WINE CLUB



A Taste of the Vintage

THE club's recent five-day visit to the chateaux and winefields of the Loire will long be remembered by the thirty-odd members and others who made up the coach party - mainly because of the moments of high comedy which were seldom absent during the visit. It was a five-day tour lasting from September 18th to 22nd and we managed to cram a variety of experience into it.

It was obvious right from the start that the meticulously-planned itinerary worked out by George and Millie Jones was going to be too ambitious, for as soon as we landed at le Havre we exchanged the rigours of an English summer for blazing sunshine and temperatures in the eighties, neither of which were conducive to sustained effort. We therefore contented ourselves with visits to two chateaux only - Ghenonceaux and Azay-le-Rideau - plus a rapid glimpse of a third, Usse, from the windows of the coach as we drove past. The main object of the tour was, of course, the wine-tasting expedition to Chateau la Grille near Huismes where the cool wine cellars encouraged one to linger far beyond the time planned.

We got off to an inauspicious start on our first night, which was spent in Rouen in a hotel which, in the interests of good Anglo-French relations, had better remain nameless. Through no fault of our driver's we arrived rather late, which presumably upset the hotel's dinner arrangements, but whatever the reason it was markedly obvious that we were looked on with no very great favour by the staff. We were served by a basilisk-eyed waitress whose face remained frosty in spite of attempts by the more gallant of the male members of the party to persuade her to smile and, as if this weren't enough, they had laid one place short at the dining table with the result that the last-comer, Dr Devlin, was left placeless and supperless.

Chairman Dick Children's efforts, in the sketchy French characteristic of the average British tourist, to point this out to the waitress merely resulted in muttered asides and Gallic shrugs of the shoulders. Eventually another lady, presumably the manageress, appeared, also frozen-faced, and demanded 'Vous voulez quoi?' in a most uncompromising tone. After considerable discussion Dr Devlin was at length served and, oddly enough, benefited spectacularly, for he was given a meal far superior to what the rest of us had received, and the waitress dumped this down in front of him with a disdainful 'Lai!'.

Further international incidents occurred when we were preparing to retire to bed. Three ladies who had elected to share a room found to their consternation that the third bed was merely a collapsible bunk high up in the wall, access to which was by ladder. Representations regarding this to the completely ineffectual young man who presided at the reception desk failed to arouse either sympathy or interest. On top of all this the same three ladies had to spend a considerable part of the night coping with a shower which refused to turn off, necessitating frantic mopping-up operations to prevent the room being inundated.

We departed next morning with unconcealed relief, a relief which was very

obviously shared by the hotel staff. L'entente was considerably less than cordiale by the time our coach pulled out.

But this was the only contretemps of the whole trip and the rest was sheer delight all the way. One memorable moment was our picnic in the woods on the banks of the Loire near Avoine. Our driver expertly steered our large vehicle along a shady track to the river bank, much to the consternation of a couple of British tourists who were having a quiet meal under the trees. The horror-stricken look on their faces as they saw our huge juggernaut bearing down on them will be long remembered, but amicable relations were soon established.

The picnic itself was a very lively affair. Encouraged by the hot sunshine, the wine and, possibly, the radiation from a downstream nuclear power station, the party became steadily more rwdy, generating an atmosphere that was distinctly Rabelaisian - appropriately enough, seeing we had only recently left Rabelais's birthplace town of Chinon. One esteemed lady member was so affected that she found it impossible to rise to her feet when the time came to leave and had to be assisted by sympathetic fellow-members.

As regards the main highlights of the tour - first and foremost there was our visit to Chenonceaux, a fairy-tale chateau built on an arched bridge over the River Cher and surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens. Then there were the cathedral and St. Ouen church in Rouen, with the famous Grande Horloge close by; the enormous supermarket in Tours (our main base) where we shopped on our final afternoon and which seemed to stock just about everything from a motorcar downwards; and, a most poignant reminder of the World War II fighting which took place in the Caen area through we passed on our way to the homeward-bound ferry at Cherbourg, the dummy paratrooper hanging from the church tower in the village of Sainte-Mère-Eglise. It was placed there in memory of one of the thousands of American paratroopers who were dropped in the district in support of the D-day landings. This particular soldier's parachute caught in the church tower and he was left hanging helplessly in his harness while the Germans, deliberately and over a protracted period, shot him to death.

Three people more than anybody else were responsible for the success of the tour - George and Millie Jones who worked out the itinerary and made all the arrangements, and Mick Evans, our unfailingly cheerful coach driver who spent hours at the wheel and never seemed in the least put out when last-minute changes of plan involved him in many miles of extra driving. Our thanks to all of them for a most enjoyable five days.

M.B. Collingwood

THERE are two meetings to report. In early August we held our Summer Dinner and, if decibel ratios of noise are any criteria of success, the evening was a roaring triumph. Curious how decibel rates seem to be linked so directly with the intake of wine! We did however gladly quieten down to listen to the singing and playing of Glyn Jones and family. They are an attractive and talented group who contributed greatly to a most enjoyable evening.

At the September meeting we listed with increasing pleasure to May Loxston's recollections of her trip to visit her daughter and family in Australia. The amusing personal slant she gave to her story added to our interest and everyone was delighted at her success in overcoming a very natural reluctance to speak in public. Practice makes perfect May and we hope to hear from you again.

Any non-members like to join? If so, please ring Milly Jones on Weobley 318700.

NORTON CANON LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB

ARE diamonds really a girl's best friend? Mr. B. Hudd of Pleasance and Harper (Hereford) seemed doubtful. A good investment for one's own pleasure and perhaps for the generation to follow. That seemed to be his advice after his most interesting talk illustrated by slides on the history of diamond mining, grading, cutting, setting and marketing. We were shown it all from the great 'Hole' of Kimberley to the 'sights' when merchants especially invited come to London to negotiate over small packs of these valuable stones.

Finally, and perhaps most exciting of all, was the tray of splendid rings, solitaire diamonds, diamonds with sapphires, diamonds with rubies - ranging in price from just over a hundred pounds to about £1,000. Alas! no samples were left with us.

Next month there will be a talk and slides by Mr. and Mrs. B. Stevenson of Moorhampton. The subject 'Variety of Birds'. This will be on Monday, 14th October, 8 p.m. at the Village Hall. Refreshments and Raffle as usual.

NEWENT FALCONRY

A couple of weeks ago my girlfriend and I were wondering what to do at the weekend and my family suggested we pay a visit to the Falconry Centre at Newent on the edge of the Forest of Dean. The centre has been open now for 18 years and keeps all sorts of birds of prey from kestrels and owls to eagles and vultures. Many of the birds are on view for the public although a certain number are kept 'behind the scenes' for resting and breeding purposes.

In addition to looking around the aviaries there is a chance to see the birds in free flight when the handlers (one of whom is Phillip Jones, who used to live at Upper Norton) release the birds to fly at lures swung on a piece of string. There are usually four such flights a day with two or three different birds being flown at each flight.

The Saturday on which we went turned out warm and sunny (almost as rare as some of the birds on display) which encouraged the birds to use the thermals (upward draughts of warm air) and some of the flying was quite spectacular. The birds flown while we were there included a Tawny Eagle, a couple of young Lanner Falcons, which are slightly larger than a kestrel, and a Bald-Headed Eagle having a wingspan of over seven feet (!) and weighing more than eleven pounds which, as the handler pointed out, is no light weight to have sitting on your outstretched arm. At 5.30 p.m. the centre closed but I think I could happily have spent another couple of hours wandering around. Then again, perhaps it was just as well we left when we did - no sooner had we reached the car than it started to rain.

Timothy Absolam

In spite of inherent levity he still manages to sink to the bottom.

The importance of money is that it releases one from the need to think about it.

Schoolboy's report

W. Somerset Maugham

HELP YOURSELF TO HEALTH

HELP Yourself to Health held their first meeting of the autumn on Wednesday, 11th September in Bardisley Village Hall.

Shirley Field of Beacon Catering, Kington gave a wonderful demonstration of cooking delicious meals with dried beans and nuts. Among her creations were Lentil and Green Pepper Flan, Spanish Chick Pea Soup, Brazil and Hazelnut Roast and Brazil and Walnut Rissoles. All the recipes were amazingly quick to prepare, expensive and wonderfully flavoured.

Shirley will be leading a course of six evening classes in Lady Hawkins School, Kington, commencing on Tuesday, 24th September at 7.00 to 9.00 p.m.

The next Help Yourself to Health meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd October when Arthur Barritt will talk about Gardening without Chemicals.

The admission charge is 50p and the evening has been changed to Wednesdays (please note.) Meetings are open to everyone and the venue is Bardisley Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that these very popular meetings will continue to flourish for another year.

MEETINGS FOR 1985

2nd OCTOBER

Gardening without Chemicals. Arthur Barritt is a member of the Soil Association and an interesting and amusing speaker.

6th NOVEMBER

Healthy Feet. David Ashley, Chiropodist, will demonstrate and explain how to care for our feet. (To be confirmed.)

18th DECEMBER

Come and enjoy a VEGETARIAN XMAS MEAL. Tickets will be available at £2.50 each for our buffet feast. Food by Ros Fry.

There may be last-minute changes to this programme, but we will ensure that they are just as interesting. The dates of 1986 meetings will be published in the next issue of 'Signal'. For further information ring Helen Jones on Hay (0497) 820265 or Cathy Moon on Kington (0544) 231103.

HELP YOURSELF TO HEALTH

GARDENING WITHOUT CHEMICALS

Arthur Barritt is a member of the Soil Association and an interesting and amusing speaker

WEDNESDAY, 2nd October at 7.30 p.m. in BARDISLEY VILLAGE HALL. Admission 50p.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A BUFFET DANCE - Friday 13th December, 1985 at NORTON CANON VILLAGE HALL in aid of Village Hall Funds.

More details next month.

CHURCH NOTICES

Sarnesfield

13th 10.00 am Holy Communion
18th 7.00 pm Harvest Festival Evensong
Preacher: The Bishop of Hereford
27th 10.00 am Morning Prayer

Norton Canon

6th 9.00 am Holy Communion
11th 7.30 pm Harvest Festival with Almey Church Choir
13th 9.00 am Morning Prayer
20th 9.00 am Holy Communion
27th 9.00 am Family Service

Staunton-On-Wye

3rd 7.30 pm Harvest Festival;
Preacher: Rev P. Wood
6th 11.00 am Holy Communion
13th 11.00 am Morning Prayer
20th 11.00 am Holy Communion

Byford

6th 6.30 pm Harvest Festival Evensong
Preacher: The Dean of Hereford

BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY TO
SIMON WHITNEY OF UPPERTON ON
26th OCTOBER and CAROLINE HOPTON
OF KINNERSELEY on 31st OCTOBER.

Norton Canon

Julie Griffiths 3rd Oct
Bryn Evans 5th "
Karen Austin 10th "
Hannah Gittins 11th "

Moorhampton

Mark Edwards 17th Oct
(Mansel Lacy),

Kinnerseley

Louise Parlish 1st Oct
Tom Corbett "
(Sallies)

OCTOBER

20th 3.00 pm Evening Prayer
27th 10.00 am Family Service

Monnington-on-Wye

13th 6.30 pm Harvest Festival Evensong
Preacher: Rev G. Asson

Letton

13th 11.00 am Family Service
27th 6.00 pm Holy Communion

KINNERSELEY

6th 6.30 HARVEST FESTIVAL
(followed by the Harvest Supper)
13th 10 am Natlings
20th 10 am Holy Communion
27th 10 am Family Service

15th Deanery Synod - Kingston 7.30 pm
16th Celebration of Healing in Hereford Cathedral 7.30 pm

22nd Speaker: Revd Gibson Patterson
Norton Canon School Governors
7.45 pm in School

29th Warden's Council 7.30 pm in Church 8 pm in Willow Gallery.

CAR PROBLEMS?

C R Y P T O N T U N I N G

checks

- Condition of battery and charging system
- Starter circuit
- Coil and distributor, including electronic systems
- Ignition timing
- Cylinder compressions
- Carburettor adjustment

Carried out at your home or work.

Ring Reg Pilling
ELECTRO-TUNE

Noccas 415

A TALE FROM MY HOME TOWN

BOY met girl when they were both employed by a well known engineering firm in the Midlands. He was an apprentice and she was a local lass. They became engaged and went to London to visit his parents. She expressed a wish to visit Petticoat Lane so they joined the traditional Sunday morning queue.

Girl's attention was attracted by a necklace on one of the stalls so boy enquired the price. He was told fifteen shillings (a great deal of money in those days.) He tried to bargain with the stallholder but to no avail as the latter maintained that they were good beads and worth every penny. Finally boy gave in as girl liked them so much and they went home.

The first time she wore them they slipped off but by retracing their steps they were lucky enough to recover the necklace. Next day they took it to a jeweller for repair of the clasp. The goods were handed over to the owner of the shop who examined it closely and then went into a back room from whence came the sound of a lengthy conversation. Finally he returned and asked for their name and address, saying that he would need to keep the necklace. Later they had a visit from the police who told them that the necklace was a string of black pearls and an heirloom of the Dutch Royal family.

It had last been worn by Queen Wilhelmina on the occasion of the wedding of the Duke of Kent to Princess Marina. The royal wearer had noticed that the clasp did not seem to be working as it should. The loss was not publicised in the hope that it might just be recovered intact and not sold off pearl by pearl as it might have been had the hue and cry been too hot.

The young couple were given a cash reward and invited to spend their honeymoon at the Hague.

B. Lane

CHIMNEY SWEEP

- Brush Vacuum - Clean and efficient service.
- Reduced rates for O.A.P's.

Please ring Hereford 274555 evenings only.

STAUNTON-ON-WYE ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Is anyone interested in coaching the Junior Boys in football?

The time would be from 2.45 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. If you think you would like to help please contact the Head Teacher at the school.

FOR SALE

Two Venetian Blinds

- (a) 7 ft 9 in wide by 4 ft 4 in deep
- (b) 7 ft 8 in wide by 3 ft 3 in deep

PRICE £10 each

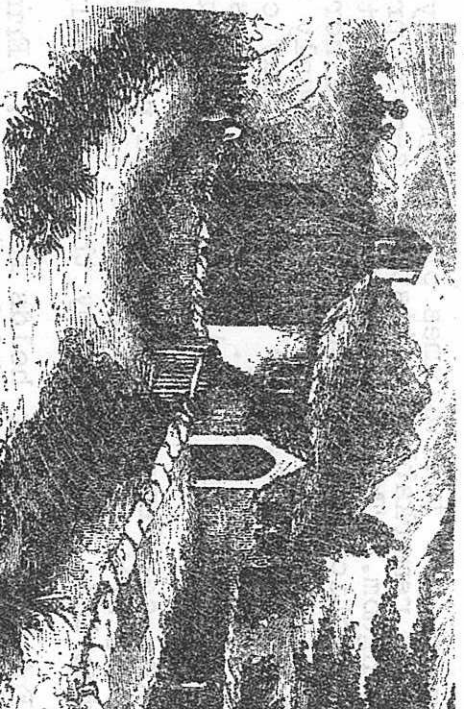
Mrs. Sybil Morgan, phone Moccas 534

Domesday

Book

by

R.W.W. PANTALL,



FOR those people interested in Parish History, next year England will be celebrating the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book, and much will be made known of it in the Press, on Radio and on Television.

William, Duke of Normandy, took the throne of England by conquest at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, but it was nineteen years later in 1085, at his Council of Ministers meeting at Gloucester, when he ordered a Survey to be made of the whole country. By this time a series of rebellions against King William had about destroyed the surviving English, who had kept their lands. All the great Earldoms were replaced by Normans, as well as the Bishops and Abbots.

In 1085 the King had raised a large army of foreign mercenaries to meet a threatened Danish invasion, billeting them on English landholders 'each according to his land.' The experience of this revealed out-of-date valuations, disputed claims of land and exemptions which led to the Domesday Survey - to discover how much land and livestock there was, what was it worth, and who held it - rightfully or wrongfully. Another prime reason was to use it as an assessment for taxation.

Clearly it was a matter of great urgency and was completed in an astonishing eight months. Commissioners were despatched all over England, to each Shire, to find out;

1. The name of the place, who held it, before 1066 and now.
2. How many hides. How many ploughs.
3. How many villagers, cottages and slaves, and how many freemen.
4. How much woodland, meadow or pasture, mills and fishponds.
5. How much has been added or taken away. What the total value was and is.

The information was to be brought back to the King so that 'every man should know his right and not usurp another's.' It was to provide the information for a final authoritative register of rightful possession - to be called the Domesday Book. It was King William's contention that the whole of the country belonged to him, and that all men held their land of him. Hence no mention is made of the Barons, the Church and others as landowners, but as landholders or landlords.

There are two volumes of the Domesday Book (Great and Little) the most remarkable statistical record produced in any mediaeval kingdom. The Great Domesday covers the bulk of England, with the exception of five counties in the north. Its 400 folios of parchment 15" x 11" were laboriously written in Latin with quill by one scribe. The Little Domesday covers the counties of Essex Norfolk and Suffolk. Their use as a source for taxability and tenure of land continued for three hundred years.

Some settlements with a common name had two 'Entries' as was the case with Staunton-on-Wye - called Stantune at the time, most of the land being held by the Lacy family.

Entry 1 Leofric holds from him. Ermy held from Edwy Young. 2 hides which pay tax, $\frac{1}{2}$ plough there; 1 further plough would be possible. 2 villagers have one plough. Value 5s.

Entry 2 William holds from him. Alric held it, he can go where he would. 4 hides which pay tax. In lordship 2 ploughs. 3 villagers and 3 small-holders with 1 plough. A further 3 ploughs would be possible there. 7 slaves. Woodland 1 league long and $\frac{1}{2}$ league wide. The value was 25s. now 30s. There was no appeal against the Judgements made.

To interpret Entries 1 and 2:

(a) Leofric (Earl), Ermy, Edwy Young, William and Alric were families who held or had held holdings of land within the village, before and after the Normans came, and in all probability none of them lived there.

(b) The Hide. This was a unit of measurement of agricultural land which had been in use from early Anglo-Saxon times. It was reckoned at 120 acres of 'land for one family' on which annual tax called the 'King's Geld' was levied, at the rate of two shillings per hide.

(c) The Plough One plough was a team of eight working oxen. Beef and dairy cattle were called 'idle animals,' but provided milk and replacement oxen for the plough teams. Half a plough would be 4 working oxen. That further plough-teams were possible was an indication the Surveyors considered more land could be put under cultivation.

(d) In Lordship 2 ploughs This meant a Manor holding 2 plough-teams of eight oxen each. Manors raised taxes, two thirds of which went to the King's Exchequer and one third to the lordship.

(e) Villagers or villeins as they were called, were the people who lived and worked within the village, (called the vill.)

(f) Smallholders in status, were those who were below the villagers and lived on holdings of up to five acres on the border of the village.

Cottars were those who dwelt in cottages some distance from the village and probably had no land except their garden.

(g) Slaves were those who came last in order of status of the inhabitants, male and female, and were usually associated with the farm plough-teams, receiving an annual allowance of food for their labours. Other work was tending sheep or swine.

(h) Woodland - 1 league long by $\frac{1}{2}$ league wide. The league was a measurement of length reckoned at $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and divided into 10 furlongs of 220 yards. It is speculation to suggest where such a long woodland could have been, in all probability the Scar Wood, Tin Hill and Oakers Hill area.

(i) Value This was a form of rent due to the Lords for use of the land, and does not relate to the value of the land itself.

The currency system was the pound, shilling and pence which had existed for a thousand years until decimal currency was introduced in 1971.

THE OTHER HALF

IN the early fifties I took a job as a health visitor in north-east London. It was an eye-opener!

Originally it must have been an attractive area with its streets and squares of Regency and Victorian houses. Each one would have housed a single family with their domestic staff living in the basements and top storeys. When I knew it almost every room of every house contained a different family. Even those who were lucky enough to have more than one room had to share the plumbing. This was usually one bathroom and toilet above ground level and an extra tap on each landing. Basement dwellers had their own facilities.

The population consisted of about 60% Jewish refugees from the Hitler regime. They spoke a variety of languages but had Yiddish in common so could help each other and translate for people like me. Also the first batches of citizens from India and Pakistan were just starting to trickle in.

Of the remainder there were about 20% nice, solid, hardworking citizens whose one aim in life was to move out into a home of their own. The rest were colourful characters from homes in which one or other - usually father or a son - was always in, had just come out of or was just going into jail.

The nice ones tried to make the best of a bad job by putting a lick of paint on their woodwork and cultivating their few square feet of garden. This was a signal for mud to be slung at the paint and refuse tipped on the gardens. The trendy pastime was to shoot cats with staples fired from a catapult. A more profitable pursuit was to nick the empties from the back of the off-licences and try to sell them back to the licencees. Fortunately, most of the latter knew their onions.

Until one was recognised in the neighbourhood doors were not answered in response to a knock. It was obvious that all the inhabitants of the street knew what was going on from behind their

curtains. Gradually as there was a lessening of suspicion a window would be thrown open and a voice demand 'Vot you want?' If the answer met with approval a key would be thrown down. Eventually keys were thrown before I had time to knock.

Three incidents remain in my mind as clearly as if they had happened last week:

1. During the initial period of not getting a reply I was watched by a small girl. She was pre-school age and straight out of a Giles cartoon. After watching me for a time she came over and said 'Vot's the matter liddy, can't you get in?' You'd better borrow me Mam's keys, they fit all the doors round 'ere.'

2. A small boy was crying when his mother met him at the school gate. Asked the reason for his grief he sobbed 'Can't do me sums right.' This earned him a thump on the back together with the admonition 'Don't be so bleedin' daft, yer Dad never got 'is sums right neither and 'e's orl rite in't 'e?'

Dad was one of the merry band who took a regular holiday at the expense of H.M. Government.

3. Whilst visiting a two-year-old the mother told me that her eight-year-old daughter was crazy about singing and she fetched her down to sing to me. Just over a decade later that girls was top of the pops and is still going strong.

Meanwhile life back at the office was less than cosy on account of the civil war raging between the old borough staff and the newly appointed London County Council executive types. The old independent county and metropolitan boroughs had been taken over and were merged two or three together according to size and population to form one division. There was a lot of dissension all round and I cannot say that it made for increased efficiency. Even the salaries were affected. Employees in the old boroughs in poor areas received extra remuneration, holiday to make up for the stressful working conditions. This was stopped and they were levelled down.

A, Aldhous

ROBERT LOXSTON

- Extensions
 - Repairs
 - Roofing
 - General Building
 - Alterations
 - Chimney Repairs
- Post Office, Norton Canon
- Phone: (0544) 318825

Diplomacy is the art of saying 'nice doggie' until you can find yourself a stick.

ALL men are beasts - thank God

Polly Garter in Dylan
Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood'

And then there was Polly Garter who was once kissed by No Good Boyo when she wasn't looking but was never kissed again although she was looking all the time.

Dylan Thomas
'Under Milk Wood'